GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3331
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2016
Stock of Essential Commodities
Bidhuri Shri Ramesh;Natterjee Shri J. Jayasingh Thiyagaraj

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there exist guidelines to minimize or limit stocking of essential commodities by farmers, companies and traders and if so, the details thereof including the manner in which the Government fixes stock limit of essential commodities;
(b) whether the Government is planning to remove the stock limit guidelines to allow traders to buy from farmers and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government is planning to establish a mechanism to address the issues concerning violation of stock limit and to remove/review stock limit guidelines and if so, the details thereof;
(d) whether some traders have taken advantage of the lack of proper rules/ guidelines in stocking of essential commodities by hoarding and creating artificial scarcity and if so, the details thereof along with action taken plan by the Government to address the issue; and
(e) whether the Government proposes to strengthen strategies to check hoarding and also the present law of checking hoarding to ensure availability of essential commodities and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY)

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(a) to (d) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 empowers the Government to control distribution, supply and prices of essential commodities including food items. Vide Order No.G.S.R.800 dated 09.06.1978, these powers have been delegated to the States/UTs. Whenever they feel that there is an abnormal price rise or scarcity in the market in an essential commodity due to hoarding, they can impose limits on storage of the specific essential commodity after concurrence of the Central Government. The decision on the specific stock limits to be applied remains with the States/UTs.

The States & UTs are enforcement agencies to take action against violation of stock limits, speculators creating artificial scarcity etc. under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. Action taken by States during the current calendar year is annexed.

(e) The Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the PBMMSEC Act, 1980 are adequate to check hoarding and to ensure adequate availability of essential commodities in the open market.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3331 FOR 06.12.2016 REGARDING STOCK OF ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE ESSENTIAL COMMODITIES ACT, 1955 DURING 2016
(Relating to offences under EC Act- for violation of stock control orders)
Updated as on 02.12.2016

Sl. No. STATES/UTs No. of Raids
Conducted No. of Persons Value of goods
Confiscated
(Rs. In Lakhs) Detentions
Ordered Reported upto

Arrested Prosecuted Convicted
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
1. ARUNACHAL PRADESH Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil July

2. ASSAM 77 Nil 8 Nil 8.50 Nil May
(Except 01/2016)
3. BIHAR 54 0 0 0 0 Not Reported *
4. CHHATTISGARH 81 0 0 0 12.24 Not Reported April to August
5. DELHI 79 1 - - - 3 July
(Except 2/3/4/5/2016)
6. GOA 23 Nil Nil Nil Nil Not Reported October
7. GUJARAT 8208 13 14 - 122.37 12 October
8. HARYANA 58 46 5 - 81.79 Nil August
(Except 03/2016)
9. HIMACHAL PRADESH 20226 - - - 20.81 Not Reported August
10. KARNATAKA 3266 137 14 0 41.57 Nil September
11. KERALA 5380 38 26 8 4.11 Nil August
12. LAKSHADWEEP Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Not Reported June
13. MADHYA PRADESH 107 - - - - Not Reported June
14. MAHARASHTRA 389 577 275 0 295.61 1 October
15. MANIPUR Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil August
(Except 4/2016)
16. MIZORAM 44 - - - - Nil September
(Except 2/2016)
17. MEGHALAYA 2 Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil August

18. NAGALAND Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Not Reported January
19. PUNJAB 923 - - - - Not Reported June
20. RAJASTHAN 44 8 8 9 1.51 Nil August & September
21. SIKKIM 71 - - - - Nil August
(Except 03/2016)
22. TAMILNADU 15821 4482 3121 118 84.38 117 September
23. TELANGANA 1395 177 5 5 804.6 7 August
24. TRIPURA 351 0 0 0 3.07 Not Reported August
(Except 1/2/2016)
25. UTTARAKHAND 596 23 4 - 0.8 4 July
26. UTTAR PRADESH 11700 110 154 74 264.4 Nil September
(Except 06/2016)
27. WEST BENGAL 504 163 30 2 10898.88 Nil October
28. A & N ISLANDS 81 - - - - Nil September
29. CHANDIGARH Nil Nil 3 1 Nil Nil September
30. D & N HAVELI Nil Nil Nil Nil Nil Not Reported June
31. PUDUCHERRY 677 2 8 - 93.72 Nil October
TOTAL 70157 5777 3675 217 12738.36 144
Note : Other States have not submitted report so far.